

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DUTY PREFERENCES TO MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PLANS TO OFFER DUTY
PREFERENCES FOR CERTAIN PROCESSED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CALIFORNIA ARIZONA CITRUS INDUSTRY IN BONN, WE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE AND POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE FUTURE EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY REGARDING FRESH AND PROCESSED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. THE INDUSTRY GROUP WAS INFORMED BY THE ISRAELI ATTACHE STATIONED IN BRUSSELS THAT THE COMMISSION IS INTENDING TO OFFER A DUTY REDUCTION FOR ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT JUICE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING ISRAEL.

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3. IN CHECKING INTO THIS SITUATION, WE WERE INFORMED BY THE TRADE THAT THE EC HAS REACHED BASIC AGREEMENT ON A NEW MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ON A COMMON EC TRADE POLICY FOR THIS AREA. THIS MANDATE INCLUDES CERTAIN TRADE AND DUTY PREFERENCES.

4. ACCORDING TO TRADE INFORMATION, THIS MANDATE AUTHORIZES THE EC COMMISSION TO OFFER A 70 PERCENT DUTY PREFERENCE FOR ORANGE JUICE AND GRAPEFRUIT JUICE ORIGINATING IN THESE COUNTRIES. THIS OFFER IS COUPLED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES (M.I.P.'S) FOR A NUMBER OF PROCESSED FRUITS INCLUDING ORANGE AND LEMON JUICES. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL.

5. AN INDICATION OF THE TOTAL PACKAGE OF DUTY PREFERENCES OFFERED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WAS PUBLISHED IN FOOD NEWS OF JULY 26, 1974. FOLLOWING WE ARE LISTING THE PRODUCTS AND THE DUTIES WHICH, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, WILL BE OFFERED BY THE EC COMMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: TUNISIA, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, SPAIN, ISRAEL AND MALTA.

	CURRENT UK	CURRENT AGREED OFFER	
	TARIFF RATE	EC TAR-	TO MEDITER-
	IFF RATE	RANEAN COUN-	
	TRIES		
	PERCENT AD VALOREM		
CANNED APRICOTS	12	22	L7.6
APRICOT PULP	NIL	17	L1.9
APRICOT HALVES	NIL	17	13.6
CANNED PEACH HALVES	NIL	17	12.0
CANNED SATSUMAS	7.5	22-24	12.8
CANNED FRUIT SALAD	NIL	22	10.0
COMMINUTED CITRUS	NIL	16-23	L0.2
GRAPEFRUIT JUICE	NIL	15	4.5
ORANGE JUICE	NIL	19-42	5.7
SHELLED ALMONDS	NIL	7	7.0
BULK WINE	6.6	9-11	L0.0

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6. EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THIS OFFER IS ACCEPTED BY THE RESPECTIVE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, THE PREFERENTIAL DUTIES WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT EXPORTS OF RESPECTIVE U.S. PRODUCTS TO GERMANY. THIS WILL BE ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGE JUICES. AS PRICE COMPETITION ON THE GERMAN MARKET IS PARTICULARLY FIERCE FOR THESE PRODUCTS. ACCORDING TO THE OPINION OF THE CALIFORNIA/ARIZONA CITRUS INDUSTRY - A 70 PERCENT DUTY PREFERENCE

WOULD PRACTICALLY ELIMINATE U.S. EXPORTS OF ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT JUICES TO GERMANY.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROPOSED M.I.P. SYSTEM FOR SELECTED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS ARE AGAIN IN THE STAGE OF EXPERT DISCUSSIONS. THE EC COMMISSION HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY STILL INTENDS TO OBTAIN FINAL COUNCIL AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF 1974 AND PLANS APPLICATION OF M.I.P.'S BEGINNING JULY 1, 1975.
HILLENBRAND

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